

**SEBASTIAN COUNTY QUORUM COURT REGULAR MEETING
AUGUST 19, 2014 @ 7:00 P.M.
GREENWOOD COURTHOUSE, UPPER COURTROOM
301 EAST CENTER STREET
GREENWOOD, ARKANSAS**

Sebastian County Judge David Hudson called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m., and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Johnny Hobbs led the Invocation.

County Clerk Sharon Brooks called the roll, with all 13 members present.

Rhonda Royal	Ray Stewart	Tony Crockett	Donald Carter
Dickie Robertson	Johnny Hobbs	John Spradlin	
Linda Murry	Phil Hicks	Danny Aldridge	
Bob Schwartz	Shawn Looper	Jim Medley	

First Item:

Judge David Hudson asked if there were any public comments.

Judge Hudson asked David Marshall, who is representing the Soccer Association, to address the Quorum Court. The Judge stated that there is a grant on tonight's agenda related to the Soccer Association.

Mr. Marshall said that the organization used to be called WASA, and now it is known as Express Soccer Club. He stated that he is the Director for the program, which services about 1300 kids ages 3 to 18. The membership has been growing about 11% per season, now is up to 20% and it services all of Sebastian County and more. The organization is also hosting events that have guests from out of state.

There were no other public comments.

Next Item:

Linda Murry made a motion to approve the minutes from the July 15, 2014 Quorum Court Meeting as written. Danny Aldridge seconded the motion.

The motion passed unanimously by Voice Vote.

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Next Item:

**Executive Report
August 19, 2014
Quorum Court Meeting**

I. The Aquatics Facility Project

Facility construction is moving forward, and the site is beginning to take shape. Pricing of facility enhancements is still in process, and additional bids are pending.

Review and evaluation of facility management options are under consideration.

A tour of the facility is being planned for some time in October to include City and County government representatives and the news media.

On the completion of budget and management evaluation, a joint City/County meeting will be coordinated for review and approval.

II. Upgrade to Miniature Golf Facility at Ben Geren Park

County representatives attended an auction of the Putt-Putt facility located on Towson Avenue in Fort Smith today, as conducted by Shawn Looper. The County was successful in purchasing four additional animals, light fixtures and supplies to support the Gator Golf facility located at Ben Geren Park. A total of \$5,092 was expended to be paid for from the Emergency and Contingency Budget.

III. Act 833 Funding Allocation

Fire chiefs in Sebastian County have requested a review of the distribution of Act 833 funds in Sebastian County, based upon the 1992 Ordinance establishing these guidelines for our County. The Fire Association will meet in a special meeting August 28 to review the allocation policy, and the Intergovernmental Cooperation Council will meet some time in the first week of September to consider approval of the policy change, prior to possible submittal of an Ordinance addressing the distribution of these funds to be approved by the Quorum Court.

The policy being evaluated is whether Act 833 funds should be carried over year to year for a fire department that does not certify and submit an application for their allocated funds in favor of reallocating these funds to all the departments that submitted applications on an annual basis.

Next Item:

The Director of the library recommended that Dr. John Price be reappointed to the Library Board for another 5 years.

Phil Hicks made a motion to approve the recommendation. Shawn Looper seconded the motion.

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The motion passed unanimously by Voice Vote.

Next Item:

Judge Hudson asked Leslie Harris to update the Quorum Court on the status of the I-pads. She stated that they have evaluated good software, including audio and video but they will not have the capability to take notes. This is the first step to the paperless stage. The paper packets will be uploaded to the I-pads, and will also be available on paper. The tentative date for the Quorum Court members to use the I-pads will be the regular September meeting, if the wireless connection software ordered arrives by that date.

Leslie answered John Spradlin's question on the price of the devices: "The pads are already bought, at \$499 each."

Next Item:

Judge Hudson stated that in the packets there is a Presentation to begin discussion on Quorum Court consideration of an Ordinance Referring an Increase in the \$18 Ambulance Fee to the Voters in the November 4, 2014 General Election.

The Presentation includes a short history of the Sebastian County EMS Service. The 2015 County Budget is constrained to provide County Government Operations and Service Delivery. The Quorum Court has the authority to enact an Ordinance increasing the \$18 Ambulance Service Charge, and, by Resolution refer the implementation of the Ambulance Service Charge to the November 4 General Election for approval or rejection by the electors in the service area.

If the Ordinance and Resolution are supported for further consideration by the Quorum Court, a special meeting will be called for Monday, August 25, at 7:00 PM to vote on the Ordinance and Resolution.

Judge Hudson stated that a \$42 increase generates \$850,560, and a \$47 increase generates \$921,440.

A special election would cost \$25,000. September and October will be the timeframe to educate voters on this issue. The residents of Fort Smith and Barling do not vote on this issue in November.

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Greenwood Mayor stated that there is support for the increase and several members of the Quorum Court expressed concern about another tax increase, and also that the increase is too high.

Ray Stewart stated that his opinion is that the fee should only be increased by \$25 for now.

Ray Stewart made a motion to increase the Ambulance fee by \$25, from \$18 to \$43 to put it on the agenda for August 25 to vote. Jim Medley seconded the motion.

Sharon Brooks called the roll.

The motion passed 9 to 4. (No votes were Shawn Looper, Danny Aldridge, Jim Medley, and Dickie Robertson).

Shawn Looper asked Judge Hudson when, did he realized the Budget was constrained.

Hudson replied, "The detailed Budget Analysis completed by the County Judge's office and reported in April, 2013 is the background and basis for this recommendation."

Next Item:

Sharon Brooks read an Appropriation Ordinance Amending Budget Ordinance No. 2014-4 in order to Appropriate Additional Funds and Approve Additional Expenditures for County Offices and Departments in the 2014 Budget; and for Other Purposes.

Bob Schwartz made a motion to adopt the Ordinance. Danny Aldridge seconded the motion.

Sharon Brooks called the roll.

The motion passed 13 to 0.

Next Item:

Sharon Brooks read the Resolution Authorizing the Sebastian County Judge to apply for a 50/50 Matching Grant from the Arkansas Department of Parks and Tourism's Outdoor Recreation Grant Program for Recreational Improvements for the Soccer Fields at Chaffee Crossing and the East Sebastian County Park in Lavaca.

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Ben Geren Park will expand from 10 fields to 12 fields, Chaffee Fields will expand from 2 fields to 4 fields with a graded back up field that is not irrigated, which will serve as a backup in case one of the other fields are down. There is also a plan to add a .5 mile Trail with ADA accessibility, move handicapped parking to a more appropriate location, make playground more accessible and update impact material at playground.

Ray Stewart made a motion to approve Resolution. Bob Schwartz seconded the motion.

The motion passed unanimously by Voice Vote.

Next Item:

Judge Hudson stated that he received a post about a grant that would support the Juvenile Detention Center. Judge Hewitt is a big fan on this and he is endorsing it.

Judge Hudson stated "I recommend that this would be moved forward."

Ray Stewart asked how the grant money would be used. Judge Hudson stated that the money is used by Comprehension Juvenile Services and the County gives them about \$32,000 a year.

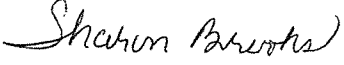
Ray Stewart made a motion to approve Resolution. Bob Schwartz seconded the motion.

The motion passed unanimously by Voice Vote.


Bob Schwartz made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Johnny Hobbs seconded the motion.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:52 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,



Sharon Brooks, County Clerk



Marcela White, Deputy Clerk